

IN HONOR OF MR. MIKE REINERI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the countless achievements and honors of Mr. Mike Reineri, who will be sworn into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame on November 11, 2001.

Mr. Reineri has a long and distinguished career within the broadcasting industry. He has served in countless capacities in many different cities throughout his tenure and has broadcast in many different localities. At age 14 he was invited to a radio station and was told he had absolutely no future in the radio business—he soon proved them wrong.

Mr. Reineri's first major appearance on radio was in 1959 with WFVG in North Carolina. He stayed there for about a year and soon moved to WKIK, where he did a rock-n-roll show from 7–11 p.m. at a remote studio at the Piggy-Park Drive-In in Raleigh. His outstanding style of broadcasting drew crowds from all across the state.

Throughout the next few years, his travels and career led him through Chicago, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Cleveland, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and many other places. While broadcasting for Cleveland, he started and promoted the very successful "Shoes for Kids" program that provides underprivileged and homeless children with footwear. He covered a variety of events including the Washington Peace Rally, Kent State shootings, and the George Wallace shootings. Professionally, Mr. Reineri has done promotions for many organizations including Walt Disney World. He has also participated in great activities such as flying the Goodyear Blimp and riding in the Miami Grand Prix.

Mr. Reineri has also been extremely active in his local community. For 18 years, Mike has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Miami and has been awarded the Service to Youth Award and Service Bar. In 1991 he was awarded the Easter Seals Man of the Year Award in Miami and the Miami Power Squadron Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safe Boating.

This small list only includes but a few of Mr. Reineri's many achievements and awards in broadcasting which has qualified him to be accepted into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and honoring a man who has touched the national community with not only his radio shows, but his heart, Mr. Mike Reineri, on his acceptance into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROGERS
K. COLEMAN'S SERVICE TO THE
HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, from small-town doctor to chairman of one of America's premier health insurance companies, Dr. Rog-

ers Coleman has made countless contributions to the nation's health care system for nearly half a century. A staunch supporter of the managed care system, which has introduced disease management and helped control escalating health care costs, Dr. Coleman also has been a leader in forging partnerships between the public and private sectors to provide basic medical care benefits for all Americans.

For 10 years, Dr. Coleman led Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas—the state's first and largest not-for-profit health insurer—through the most progressive change and largest expansion in its 62-year history. For seven of those years, he oversaw significant expansion of the company's Medicare business. From 1991 to 1996, he led Blue Cross' transformation from a fee-for-service to a managed care organization to better meet the health coverage needs of Texans. During that time, the company expanded its HMO statewide and introduced PPO and point-of-service coverage. Then from 1996 to 1998, he led the Texas Plan through significant regulatory hurdles to complete its merger with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois—quadrupling Texas' financial reserves and ensuring that for many years to come, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas would continue to help meet the health care needs of Texas communities.

As chairman of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) following the merger between the Texas and Illinois Plans, Dr. Coleman has overseen HCSC's acquisitions of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico and NYLCare's commercial HMO operations in Texas—increasing HCSC membership to approximately 7.4 million.

Over the past decade, Dr. Coleman has made quality health coverage a top priority at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. Under his leadership, the company has received five consecutive two-year accreditations from the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission for demonstrating a commitment to providing excellent service and quality PPO and point-of-service products. Over the past two years, Southwest Texas HMO and Texas Gulf Coast HMO have received NCQA accreditation for service and clinical quality that meet the NCQA's rigorous requirements for consumer protection and quality improvement.

And much of Dr. Coleman's vision for a health improvement organization has been realized with the strides Blue Cross has made in health and wellness programs. Since 1995, he has overseen the company's development of a new maternity program, a nurse counseling service, and disease management programs for asthma, diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure and HIV.

While Dr. Coleman has done much for HCSC during the last three years and for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas over the past quarter century, he will be most remembered for his efforts on behalf of the uninsured. As one of only a handful of doctors in America to head a health insurance company, he has been uniquely qualified to address one of the country's most difficult issues. He says that what he remembers most about his 18-year private practice in general medicine and surgery were the people who needed medical attention but had no health insurance.

To help solve this problem, in 1991, Dr. Coleman spearheaded the effort at Blue Cross to establish the Caring for Children Foundation

of Texas, which provided free outpatient health coverage to nearly 7,000 Texas children whose parents could not afford such coverage. In 1997, he supported the company's effort to create the Texas Care Van Program, which has provided more than 70,000 free immunizations to medically underserved children and seniors in the state since it began. In 1998, he saw that Blue Cross became the first administrator of the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool, a program that today is providing health insurance to 14,000 Texans who, otherwise, might not be able to obtain coverage.

Dr. Coleman led the organization's 1999 media campaign in Texas' largest cities to address the unprecedented level of legislative involvement in the health care industry. Instead of more mandates that he said would worsen the uninsured problem and push the private, employer-based health insurance system closer to the breaking point, Dr. Coleman advocated innovative solutions like health insurance tax credits for the uninsured—an idea that is today clearly on the table in Washington.

And last year, Dr. Coleman helped develop a proposal for the Texas Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Uninsured that would allow Texas workers to take their health insurance with them as they move from job to job.

Although Dr. Coleman's accomplishments have been many and impressive, including the "Award of Exceptional Service" from Medicare, one wouldn't know it given his unassuming and gracious demeanor. He always has recognized others for their accomplishments, never failing to say thank you for even the most ordinary contributions. Ironical in a way, since for the last half century, his contributions to the health care field have been anything but ordinary.

HONORING RICHARD F. CERESKO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has served his country, his state, and his fellow veterans for over thirty years. Richard F. "Dick" Ceresko is retiring on Friday, October 12th, after fourteen years as the Director of the State of Colorado's Division of Veterans' Affairs. In that time, he has played an integral role in expanding and improving both state and federal services for veterans. Although he will be leaving his official post, his legacy will live on in the new partnerships he crafted with private groups and federal agencies, new facilities to care for our veterans, and new national cemeteries to honor them eternally.

You might say that Dick Ceresko was born to serve his country. His father fought in World War II, and his grandfather served in the Navy at the turn of the 20th Century. In October of 1965, Mr. Ceresko entered the U.S. Marine Corps where he earned his Naval wings and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He was ordered to Vietnam in July, 1967, and flew more than 360 missions as co-pilot, first pilot, and flight leader in a helicopter gunship during combat operations. He served throughout the northern "I-Corps," including Khe Sanh, Hue, Dong Ha and Con Thien, before